

United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Local 480 2305 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Phone: 808 942.7778

June 7, 2011

Marlene Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations (WT Proceeding No. 11-65)

## Dear Commissioners:

This letter is in response to the call for comments on the proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger. The outcome of this merger will be good for workers and families in Hawaii, and UFCW Local 480 supports it enthusiastically.

This merger represents an opportunity for the U.S. to expand high speed broadband, narrow the digital divide and improve the quality of service for consumers. It will also give T-Mobile workers the opportunity to choose the same protections and bargaining power as the 42,000 unionized workers at AT&T, the only wireless provider with a unionized workforce.

For our workers in Hawaii, the increased availability of reliable, high-speed wireless will mean better coverage and improved safety for our members, as well as better on-the-job communication between workers.

High-speed broadband also brings opportunities for professional and educational advancements, distance learning and improved job training, and many other possibilities for workers and job-seekers. This access will assist us with our outreach and community-building efforts and will be an essential tool that helps workers educate themselves about their rights, available services, and promotion opportunities.

A Union Preparing Today for the Needs of Tomorrow



Advanced communications technology has the power to unlock potential and reveal possibilities for workers everywhere. Every American should have equal access to this technology and to the opportunities and innovations it can provide. Please support this merger on behalf of workers here in Hawaii and elsewhere.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick K. Loo President

c: Chairman Julius Genachowski

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell